

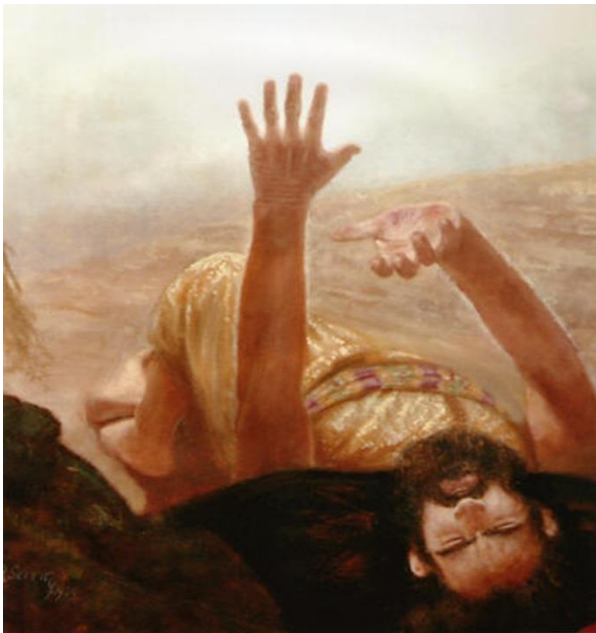
From Persecutor to Preacher **Acts 9:1-31**

Paul the persecutor—the worst of the worst!

- ◆ Paul's conversion is HUGE. It's told 3x in Acts and shapes the last half of Acts!
- ◆ Paul's anti-Christian days: 8:1-3, 22:4,5,19, 26:9-12, Phil. 3:6, I Tim. 1:12-16.
- ◆ Paul's conversion is hard to accept (9:13,14,26), as also was Cornelius' later, 11:2ff. "Double visions" are needed for the sake of both Ananias and Peter.

Paul the preacher—the boldest of the bold!

- ◆ 9:23 = the first of several foiled plots to kill Paul, 9:29, 21:31, 23:12, 27:42.
- ◆ See Gal. 1:16-18 for the time interval between Acts 9:25 and 26. Paul's escape from Damascus is to Arabia and back before his trip to Jerusalem.
- ◆ Note who Paul engages with and alienates in Jerusalem and compare this to what Stephen ran into back in 6:9ff. How might we be tempted to view Paul's ministry in view of his involvement with Stephen's death in 7:58?
- ◆ Paul is "too hot to handle" and is sent up north to his home of Tarsus. He will do ministry here and nearby Cilicia (Gal. 2:21,22) for a couple of years before heading to Antioch, where he will later begin his missionary journeys
- ◆ In 9:31 Luke gives us another "progress report" of the church, as in 6:7.



Paul saw himself as the poster child for God's grace and mercy. His conversion shows how no one can be too far gone for God to save, see I Tim. 1:16.